(b) whether the proble findings establish nexus between the coaches and team officials; and

(c) whether the contracts with weightlifting coaches from East-bloc countries have been reviewed in the light of dope-related charges?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed an Inquiry Committee with Brig. (Retd.) K.P. Singh Deo, Chairman, Sports Development Commission of IOA and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairman, Medical Commission of Olympic Council of Asia to look into the doping controversy at the Athens Olympic Games, 2004.

On the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, a life-time ban has been imposed on participation in sports events on the two weightlifters, namely Ms. Sanamacha Chuna and Ms. Pratima Kumari, who had tested positive for banned drugs during the Athens Olympics Games.

The Governments has terminated contracts of the coaches involved with the training of the above mentioned weightlifters, namely Shri Pal Singh Sandhu, the then National Coach and Shri Leonid Taranenko, Foreign Coach.

(c) No, Sir.

Measures to Improve sports medicine

689. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate emphasis has not been given to sports medicine by the Sports Authority of India and other organisations;

(b) to what extent is India behind in sports medicine;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our sportsmen do not get proper medical advice from the various organisations in the country;

(d) what steps will be taken to improve sports medicine so as to improve athletics in the country; and

(e) the details of any schedule of work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Sports Authority of India (SAI) has emphasised the role of Sports Medicine and Allied Sports Sciences in enhancing the performance of sports-persons including athletes through the following steps:-

(i) The Centres in Patiala, Bangalore, Calcutta and Delhi are constantly giving Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences backup to National Campers and also to the trainees who are in various SAI Schemes. Trained Doctors and Scientists working in centres are monitoring the health and fitness to sports-persons.

(ii) Doctors and Scientists working at various Centres have been given exposure in their respective areas by sending them abroad for training programmes.

(iii) Sports Physiotherapy is also an integral part of Sports Medicine backup. Presently the Sports Masseurs have been brought from abroad at short contract for providing masseurs backup to sports-persons.

(iv) In order to attract young talent to Sports Medicine & Sports, 32 Sports Sciences Research Fellowships are offered in various areas. At present 23 Research Fellows are working at SAI Centres at Bangalore, Patiala, Calcutta and Delhi on various project.

(v) In collaboation with Patiala Medical College, a two-year PG Diploma in Sports Medicine is being conducted at Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NS NIS), Patiala since 1986. There are 6 seats every yar for which MBBS Doctors could apply.

(vi) Dope Control is a mandatory requirement of Sports Medicine backup. A Dope Control Centre (DCC) with ISO 9001-2000 and ISO 17025:1999 certification is functioning at JN Stadium, New Delhi. An application has been moved to World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) for its permanent accreditation.

Sports Medicine is relatively a recent speciality, which has come into being in the world of medicine. The Asian countries are gradually catching up with the other development nations in the field of Sports Medicine.

Preparations regarding 2010 Commonwealth Games

690. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been selected to host the 2010 Commonwealth Games and if so, whether India has started work on the preliminaries;